REMARKS

I. Status Summary

In this amendment, no claims are canceled. Therefore, upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-25 will remain pending.

II. Telephone Examiner Interview Summary

Applicants' representative appreciates the Telephone Examiner Interview granted him on September 5, 2007. In the Telephone Examiner Interview, proposed claim language and the cited prior art were discussed. In particular, Applicants agreed to amend the claims to clarify that the link interface modules route signaling messages and the link tables include data for routing signaling messages. Applicants also agreed to change "error detecting code" in the claims to "data error detecting code" to clarify that the type of error being detected by the present subject matter is a data error or inconsistency. The claims have been amended herein as discussed in the Telephone Examiner Interview. The Examiner indicated that these amendments would distinguish over the cited art and that a further search would be conducted.

III. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3-9, 12-15 and 18-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,934,890 to Lopke (hereinafter, "Lopke") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,765,990 to Freedman (hereinafter, "Freedman") in view of U.S.

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Patent No. 7,036,066 to Weibel et al. (hereinafter, "Weibel"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1, 9, and 15 recite methods and a system for dynamic link table consistency management. For example, in independent claim 1, link interface modules are maintained in a signaling message routing node. As discussed above, independent claim 1 and the remaining independent claims have been amended to indicate that the link interface modules route signaling messages. Each link interface module includes a signaling link table. One of the link interface modules requests that another link interface module compute a data error detecting code for its signaling link table. The receiving link interface module computes the error detecting code for its signaling link table and sends the data error detecting code back to the first link interface module. The first link interface module computes a data error detecting code for its signaling link table and compares the computed data error detecting code to the received error detecting code. In response to failing to detect a match between the data error detecting codes, corrective action is taken. As discussed above, each of the claims 1, 9, and 15 has been amended to clarify that the signaling link tables are tables that are used to route signaling messages from inbound to outbound signaling links. Thus, each of the claims recites a method or a system where link interface modules that route signaling messages using local signaling link tables detect data errors or data inconsistencies by comparing their local tables or corresponding data error detecting codes to remote tables or corresponding data error detecting codes of other link interface modules.

The combination of Lopke, Freedman, and Weibel fails to teach or suggest a method or a system where link interface modules that route signaling messages detect data inconsistencies or errors between their signaling link tables by comparing tables or data error detecting codes with other link interface modules. In the official action, it is indicated that Lopke discloses computing error detection codes for signaling link tables on separate link interface modules and comparing the codes at one of the modules. Applicants respectfully disagree. According to Lopke:

> First device **12** is configured to send an error code **14** in the event of a first device **12** operating error. (Emphasis added.) (See column 3, lines 8-10 of Lopke).

In the above quoted passage, Lopke indicates that a device generates an error code when it detects an operating error. This passage fails to teach or even remotely suggest generating a data error detecting code for a signaling link table at either the first or second link interface module as claimed because the error code generated by Lopke is disclosed as being an operating error code, rather than a data error detecting code for a table. An operating error code would be understood to refer to an error code generated based on the operation of a device, rather than a data error detecting code for a table. Lopke nowhere indicates that the operating error code is or could be a data error detecting code generated for a table as claimed. Thus, for this reason alone, Lopke fails to disclose generating the data error detecting codes for the first or second signaling link tables as claimed.

On page 3, the official action indicates that Lopke discloses generating an error detecting code for one table on one module and comparing that code to an error detecting code generated for another table on another module. Applicants respectfully disagree. In contrast to generating codes on separate modules and comparing the codes, Lopke states:

> Second device **16**, in accordance with the present invention, is configured to join an operating error code **14** with first device parameters **18** and to alert a user upon the receipt of an operating error code **14** from first device **12** through connection **18**. (See column 3, lines 20-24 of Lopke.)

In the above quoted passage, Lopke indicates that the second device receives the operating error code from the first device and joins the operating error code with first device parameters **18**. This process involves looking up the error code generated by the first device in a database so that the error code can be interpreted. There is no mention of computing another error code for a table at the second device or comparing that error code to the received error code, as claimed in independent claims 1 or 9. Moreover, there is no disclosure of the comparison of link tables on different link interface modules for data inconsistencies recited in claim 15. Thus, for this additional reason, the rejection of the claims as unpatentable over Lopke in view of Freedman and further in view of Weibel should be withdrawn.

The official action correctly notes that Weibel discloses the comparison of error detecting codes for a block of data. However, Weibel fails to teach or suggest that the error detecting codes generated by different link interface modules for link tables

maintained by each signaling interface module. In contrast, according to Weibel, an error detection code is computed for a data block and compared to an error detection code computed for the same data block. For example, Weibel states:

> In step **805**, a new error detection code (i.e., the confirmation error detection code) is generated based on the data from the user data block contained in the retrieved extended data block. This confirmation error detection code is generated using the same technique used to generate the error detection code when the user data block was first written to the storage device **118**. (See column 9, lines 52-58 of Weibel.)

In the above quoted passage, Weibel indicates that an error detection code is computed for the same data block stored in the same location in storage device **118** for which a previous error detection code was computed. The purpose of such a code is to determine whether the stored data has been modified since it was stored. In contrast, independent claims 1 and 9 recite computing data error detection codes for data stored on different signaling link interface modules and comparing the resulting codes. In independent claim 15, the link tables maintained by different link interface modules are compared to detect data inconsistencies. The purpose of such error detection is to maintain consistency or detect inconsistency between data in different tables. In Weibel, the purpose of the error detection is to check whether data in one location has been modified since it was stored. Because Weibel fails to teach or suggest computing error detection codes for signaling link tables maintained by different link interface modules or comparing data tables for different link interface modules, for this additional

reason, the rejection of claims 1, 9, and 15 and their dependent claims as unpatentable over Lopke in view of Freedman and further in view of Weibel should be withdrawn.

Freedman was cited in the official action as disclosing signaling link tables. As stated above, each of claims 1, 9, and 15 has been amended to indicate that the link tables are tables that are used by their respective link interface modules to route signaling messages from an inbound signaling link to an outbound signaling link. Support for the claim amendments is found, for example, on page 1, lines 18-20 of the present specification. There is no disclosure in Freedman of signaling link tables that are used to route signaling messages from an inbound signaling link to an outbound signaling link. In contrast, the link tables of Freedman relate to messages that are copied from a signaling link. For example, Freedman states:

> Each link table stores messages copied from a particular signaling link. (See column 5, lines 29-31 of Freedman.)

From this passage, Freedman indicates that its link tables store signaling message copies. Such link tables are used by network monitoring systems, as taught by Freedman and are not used by link interface modules to route signaling messages between signaling links. Accordingly, for this additional reason, the rejection of claims 1, 9, 15, and their dependent claims as unpatentable over Lopke in view of Freedman and further in view of Weibel should be withdrawn.

Claims 2, 10, 11, 16, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Lopke and Freedman in view of Weibel and further in view of Nelson. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 2, 10, 11, 16, and 17 dependent from and further limit one of claims 1, 9, and 15. As stated above with regard to the rejection of claims 1, 9, and 15, the combination of Lopke, Freedman, and Weibel fails to teach or suggest a link table consistency management method or system where different link interface modules that route signaling messages that local link tables or corresponding data error detecting codes to detect data errors or inconsistencies as claimed. Nelson likewise lacks such teaching or suggestion. Nelson is directed to a call control processing system that interworks between TDM and ATM connections. There is no mention of detecting data errors or inconsistencies between link tables on different link interface modules as claimed. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 2, 10, 11, 16, and 17 as unpatentable over Lopke and Freedman in view of Weibel and further in view of Nelson should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in proper condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited.

If any minor issues should remain outstanding after the Examiner has had an opportunity to study the Amendment and Remarks, it is respectfully requested that the

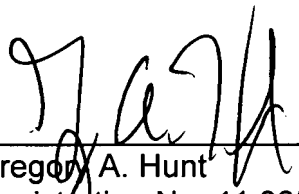
Examiner telephone the undersigned attorney so that all such matters may be resolved and the application placed in condition for allowance without the necessity for another Action and/or Amendment.

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

Although no fee is believed to be due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies of payment or credit any overpayment associated with the filing of this correspondence to Deposit Account No. **50-0426**.

Respectfully submitted,

JENKINS, WILSON, TAYLOR & HUNT, P.A.

Date September 7, 2007 By: 

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